

The American Thanksgiving Dinner and Its Cost



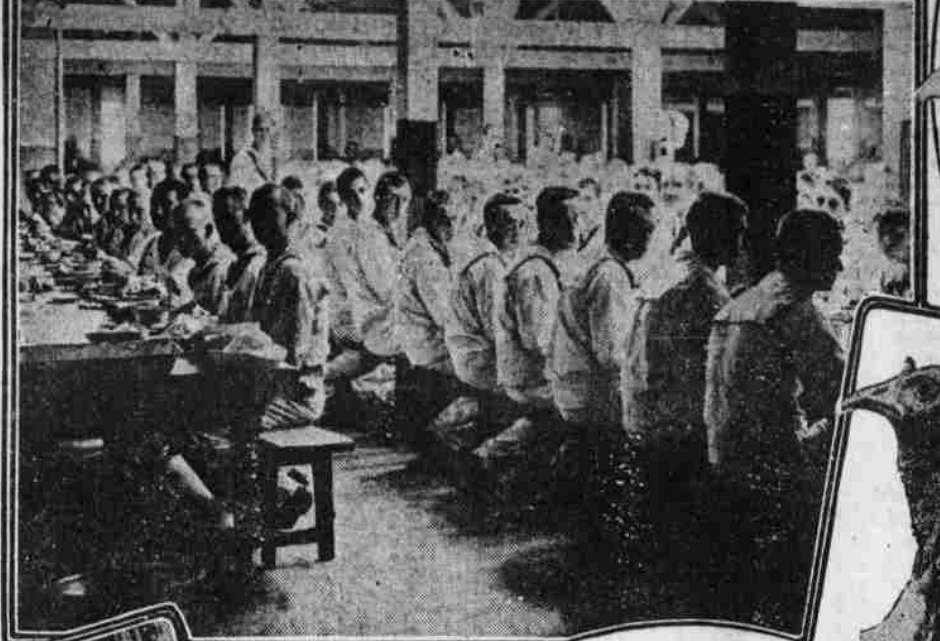
STEADILY growing in significance year by year and in the fame of its appetizing attributes the American Thanksgiving dinner has become very much of an institution. It might almost be said that it has become more of an institution than the American Thanksgiving itself. At least if the feast does not overshadow the holiday at home it does in foreign parts. For, be it known, the American Thanksgiving dinner is now eaten "around the world," and in these detached realms of American soil or sentiment

the dinner is decidedly the most important feature of the program, for, of course, there is no football game and no matinee such as many Americans rely upon for Thanksgiving diversion, and in the case of many of the exiles who observe Thanksgiving overseas there is not even a Thanksgiving religious service such as is universal at home.

It is not merely, either, that the officers and men of our army and navy have introduced the Yankee Thanksgiving dinner to benighted lands long in ignorance of its delights. To be sure the epicurean blue-jackets and the lads in khaki have been responsible for much of this gastronomic "missionary work," but it is also a fact that American diplomatic and consular officials, and indeed all classes of Americans resident abroad, have done their share to preserve all the traditions of the Thanksgiving dinner as a reality in every transplanted home. Especially, where there is a little "American colony" in an alien environment, is the Thanksgiving dinner right jealously guarded.

But whereas the American Thanksgiving dinner has been winning its way around the world it has likewise come to enjoy more and more prestige at home. The one jarring note in any present-day eulogy of the Thanksgiving dinner is to be found in its greatly increased cost over the expense involved for a corresponding menu a few years since. No person who grasped the import of the "high cost of living" issue in the recent political campaign can fail to realize that the matter is a very grave one to the average housekeeper, and especially when it obstructs itself in connection with a holiday feast which ought to be an occasion for care-free festivity instead of domestic perplexities.

The one consolation, if not compensation, in this situation is to be found in the knowledge that our Thanksgiving dinners in this day and generation are vastly better than the like holiday spread of years gone by. It is not so much that the dishes that go to make up the bill of



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A STAND-BY OF THE THANKSGIVING MENU

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FAVORS THE PROPOSED LAW

Kansas City Star Sees Much Value in a National Presidential Primary.

The bill to be presented to congress for a federal presidential primary law will afford a test of true progressivism. Those who believe in popular government and who trust the people will vote for the enactment of such a law. Those who depend on secret machine methods will oppose its enactment.

Of course the bill as it is projected by progressives of both parties will encounter the objection that it is "un-constitutional." Every good thing is said to be against the constitution. But the constitution is not half as bad as it is represented to be by those who say they are its closest friends.

A national presidential primary certainly could not be as evasive of the constitution as is the entire system of national party conventions. The constitution provides an electoral college for choosing a president. It still has an electoral college; but it simply records what the conventions initiate and the people determine at the polls. The electoral college will prevail under the new proposed arrangement. The change will be simply that the people will initiate—that the people, and not the machines, will control the nominations.

The direct senatorial primaries within the several states are another instance of a change in the method of selecting high federal officials from that method contemplated in the constitution.

The move for a national presidential primary embodies the right principle in the right and practical form. It is right for both parties. It is non-partisan. Progressives of both parties in every state should insist that their senators and representatives vote for it—vote for it in time to control the nominations of 1912.—Kansas City Star.

Control of Senate.

The appointment of Obadiah Gardner, Democrat, as member of the national senate from Maine, increases the democratic vote in that body to 42, with reduction of the Republican membership to 49.

During the special session, the tariff bills were passed as the result of affiliation of "progressive" Republicans with the Democrats. At least ten such Republicans are counted on to co-operate with Democrats on tariff legislation in the coming regular session.

If only four of these gentlemen were to continue to act with the Democrats, the old-time stand-pat element of the Republicans would be in a minority. With the house so assuredly Democratic and conditions described existing in the upper branch, it remains simply for the Democrats to hold together in favor of broad, sound principles of tariff legislation to make the coming session memorable in the records of political reform and increase the proportions of Democratic success to be attained in the national election.

"Records" That Disagree.

When an enterprising reporter asked Theodore Roosevelt whether he would issue a statement after he had "digested the government's petition," Mr. Roosevelt said: "It might interest you to look up my testimony before the congressional committee in August. To what I said then I have nothing to add." Yet all that he said then was that he was sure he acted wisely in the Tennessee Coal and Iron company matter, that he did what he did in order to stop the panic, and that he accepted unreservedly and without investigation everything that Gary and Frick said. This habit of appealing to what he calls "the record" is an old one with Mr. Roosevelt. As long as a man can make his own record, and interpret it as he pleases, this method of meeting an issue is most satisfactory—at least to him. In this case the best record up to date is the bill filed by the government against the steel trust.

Where Is Ballinger?

"I believe," said Secretary Fisher to the American Mining congress, "that the time has passed when the government should convey an unrestricted title to its coal fields. . . . I believe the leasing system avoids the controversies and the difficulties of both extremes of public and of private ownership. . . . The adoption of a leasing policy will take away from the promoters of such a road (as one to the Alaskan coal fields) the lure of great gain from the exploitation of the coal fields. The government must recognize that if it withdraws from private capital this incentive for railroad construction the government itself must assume the obligation of making possible the kind of development upon which it insists for the general good."

No sale of Alaskan coal lands! Government ownership of a railroad to the coal fields!

Where Is Mr. Ballinger?

Of course Big Business has not given up hope of blocking the trust busting game. And it is prepared to give up liberally long before it gives up hope.

Always the Same Song.

When the trusts are hard hit they always predict hard times again and suffering for their old friends, the common people.—Atlanta Journal.

It is safe to say that Mr. Taft will not be in great demand, after he leaves the White House, as a campaign manager.

Primitive Race.

In the more inaccessible parts of the Sierra Madre mountains in northern Mexico live a curious people called the Tarahumaras. Many of them dwell in caves, but they have also small villages, all of them about 8,000 feet above sea level. The Tarahumaras are small in body, but possessed of much endurance. Their only food is maize, and they manufacture a drink called teshehu from the same cereal. Their language is limited to about 300 words, and they cannot count beyond ten.

Prejudice Is a Serious Menace

Prejudice is a hard thing to overcome, but where health is at stake and the opinion of thousands of reliable people differs from yours, prejudice then becomes your menace and you ought to lay it aside. This is said in the interest of people suffering from chronic constipation, and it is worthy of their attention.

In the opinion of legions of reliable American people the most stubborn constipation imaginable can be cured by a brief use of Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin. You may not have heard of it before, but do not doubt its merits on that account, or because it has not been blatantly advertised. It has sold very successfully on word of mouth recommendation. Parents are giving it to their children today who were given it by their parents, and it has been truthfully said that more druggists use it personally in their families than any other laxative.

Letters recently received from Mr. Geo. G. Sullivan, Jefferson, Mo., and Mrs. K. Glenn, 429 Oak St., Kansas City, Mo., are but a few of thousands showing the esteem in which Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin is held. It is mild, gentle, non-gripping—not violent, like salts or cathartics. It cures gradually and pleasantly so that in time nature again does its own work without outside aid. Constipated people owe it to themselves to use this grand bowel specific.

Anyone wishing to make a trial of this remedy before buying it in the regular way of a druggist at fifty cents or one dollar a large bottle (family size) can have a sample bottle sent to the home free of charge by simply addressing Dr. W. B. Caldwell, 201 Washington St., Monticello, Ill. Your name and address on a postal card will do.

SUCCESSFUL COLLECTOR.



East Turner—I should think you'd have lots of trouble collecting 'way out here.

Collector Suremark—Not on yer life; everybody here knows I kin plunk the bull's-eye nine shots out of ten!

Ready for More Sacrifice.

Frank McIntyre, after a recent performance of "Snobs," fell into a story-telling mood and recalled the vaccination of the six-year-old son of one of his friends. The boy was given 50 cents for undergoing the ordeal. The following day he said to his father: "Daddy, isn't there anything else you can have done to me? I need the money."

He Proved It.

"My dear, I was one of the very first to leave," said a man who, on returning from an evening party, was greeted reproachfully by his wife. "Oh, you always say that," she retorted.

"Well, I can prove it this time, anyhow," insisted the husband. "Look in the hall and see the gold-mounted umbrellas I've brought home."

Surprised.

"Do you mean to tell me you really live in Chicago?"

"Yes. You speak as if you thought it remarkable for me to do so."

"Why, I supposed people merely stayed in Chicago until they got money enough to live in New York."

The Gist of it.

Two and two make four. This is a platitude.

Two and two make three. This is demagogism.

Two and two make one hundred and fifty. This is high finance.—Lippincott's Magazine.

Titled.

"Is Mr. Bliff a believer in the up lift?"

"Can't say for certain, but I notice that he wears his cigar at a dizzy angle."

Apicultural.

Mother—Yes, Johnny, the queen bee is boss.

Johnny—How about the presidential bee?

In the deepest night of trouble and sorrow, we have so much to be thankful for that we need never cease our singing.—Cokeridge.

A "Teaser"

For Jaded Appetites—

Post Toasties

with cream or preserved fruit.

Ready to serve instantly—just open the box and enjoy an extra good dish—

Convenient, crisp, delicious, wholesome.

"The Memory Lingers"

Sold by Grocers

Made at the POSTUM CEREAL CO., Ltd., Pure Food Factories, Battle Creek, Mich.

fare for the November holiday have been greatly increased in number or variety. Your hearty dinner demands on Thanksgiving the essentials such as turkey and celery and cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie, which were the stand-bys of the feast in the days of his father and his grandfather before him. The point is that some of the eatables are unquestionably more savory than were their counterparts of several decades ago, and—with all due respect to the kind that mother used to make—some of the modern recipes seem to put it all over the old-timers in garishes and the preparation of puddings and pastry, etc.

And, speaking of the changes that have come about, take the case of the toothsome turkey, headliner of the whole holiday menu. It would be futile to try to convince the high liver of the twentieth century who revels in his milk-fed or chestnut-fed turkey from Rhode Island or the middle west, that his forefathers ever enjoyed anything so delicious. Certainly turkeys have increased in size, too, judging by the average weight those that find their way to market. However, this latter development is clearly traceable to the tendency of turkey raisers to devote themselves almost exclusively to the Bronze, the largest of the six standard varieties of turkeys.

However, there are two sides to this turkey story, and the housewives who preside over small families are the ones who have had brought home to them the disadvantages of this boom in the sale of turkeys. With the big bronze birds weighing from 16 to 36 pounds apiece—and usually nearer the latter than the former figure—crowding the market it is becoming every year more difficult for the buyer of a family of two or three people to find a satisfactory six, seven or eight pound turkey. It really begins to look as though the small families would be driven to hotels on Thanksgiving or else be compelled to take in boarders or entertain all their friends at the holiday dinner.

Turkey buying, too, is the phase of the Thanksgiving marketing where the increased cost of living most severely pinches the man with the stationary income. A dweller in any of our large cities may consider himself decidedly in luck these days if he succeeds in getting a tender turkey at Thanksgiving for 25 cents per pound, and he is much more likely to be asked any figure up to 35 or 40 cents per pound, which prices have prevailed every Thanksgiving in recent years in the New York and Boston markets for the choicest birds. The people of the central west have an advantage over eastern turkey eaters, because

Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and other states along the backbone of the country are the great centers of the turkey industry, although it will doubtless surprise some of our readers to learn that Texas leads all the other states in the Union in the number of turkeys produced. Proximity of the market to the rural district whence it draws its supply of holiday fowls is a highly important consideration nowadays, because the mistress of a city home can no longer purchase her Thanksgiving turkey from a farmer who drives up to her door marketing the products of his own farm. All the turkeys are handled nowadays through commission merchants, which means, of course, that there is a middleman's profit to be paid by the ultimate consumer. Another secret of the present high prices of turkeys is found in the fact that the live birds are shipped long distances. If they are transported by express the expense is considerable, and if they make the journey by freight the trip is nearly as costly, inasmuch as the live birds are sent by freight only in carload lots, which involves

mouth, and the Indians went out and shot a large number of them, and made them their contribution to the feast. Governor Bradford says in his history that they were delicious to eat. How fitting it is that the bird that is the crowning glory of our